

**Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation
Environmental Assessment**

Operator: Devon Energy Production Company, L.P.

Well Name/Number: State 25-14

Location: SE SW Section 25 T27N R19E

County: Blaine, MT; **Field (or Wildcat)** W/C

Air Quality

(possible concerns)

Long drilling time: No, 3 to 4 days

Unusually deep drilling (high horsepower rig): No, 2500' TD using a small single derrick drilling rig.

Possible H2S gas production: None anticipated.

In/near Class I air quality area: No Class I air quality area.

Air quality permit for flaring/venting (if productive): Yes, DEQ air quality permit required under rule 75-2-211.

Mitigation:

☒ Air quality permit (AQB review)

☐ Gas plants/pipelines available for sour gas

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: No special concerns – using small rig to drill to 2500'TD.

Water Quality

(possible concerns)

Salt/oil based mud: No, freshwater and freshwater mud system.

High water table: No high water table anticipated.

Surface drainage leads to live water: Yes, closest drainages is Als Creek, about 1/8 of a mile to the south from this location.

Water well contamination: None, closest water well is over 1 mile in any direction from this location. This gas well test will drill surface hole with freshwater to a depth of about 150' and will set steel surface casing at 150' and cement to surface to protect shallow groundwaters.

Porous/permeable soils: No, sandy silty bentonitic soils.

Class I stream drainage: No Class I stream drainages in the area.

Mitigation:

☐ Lined reserve pit

☒ Adequate surface casing

☐ Berms/dykes, re-routed drainage

☐ Closed mud system

☐ Off-site disposal of solids/liquids (in approved facility)

☐ Other: _____

Comments: 150' of surface casing cemented to surface adequate to protect freshwater zones. If productive, 4 ½" casings will be run, casing will be cemented to surface. Also, fresh water mud systems to be used on both the surface hole and mainhole.

Soils/Vegetation/Land Use

(possible concerns)

Stream crossings: No stream crossings anticipated.

High erosion potential: No, small cut, up to 8.0' and small fill, up to 7.0', required.

Loss of soil productivity: No, location will be restored after drilling, in nonproductive. If productive unused portion of drillsite will be reclaimed.

Unusually large wellsite: No, 250'X250' location size required.

Damage to improvements: Slight, surface use is grass land.

Conflict with existing land use/values: Slight

Mitigation

☐ Avoid improvements (topographic tolerance)

☐ Exception location requested

☒ Stockpile topsoil

☐ Stream Crossing Permit (other agency review)

☒ Reclaim unused part of wellsite if productive

☐ Special construction methods to enhance reclamation

☒ Other: Requires DEQ General Permit for Storm Water Discharge Associated with Construction Activity, under ARM 17.30.1102(28).

Comments: Access will be over existing county road, Warrick Road and existing ranch/well road. About 1/2 of a mile of new access will be created to access this location off an existing ranch/well road. Cuttings will be disposed of in the unlined earthen pits. Drilling fluids will be trucked to nearby stock pond and disposed of with surface owner approval. Pit will be allowed to dry then backfilled. No special concerns

Health Hazards/Noise

(possible concerns)

Proximity to public facilities/residences: Closest residence is about 2 miles to the northwest from this location.

Possibility of H2S: No H2S anticipated.

Size of rig/length of drilling time: Small drilling rig/short 3 to 4 days drilling time

Mitigation:

☒ Proper BOP equipment

☐ Topographic sound barriers

☐ H2S contingency and/or evacuation plan

☐ Special equipment/procedures requirements

☐ Other: _____

Comments: Adequate surface casing and operational BOP should mitigate any problems. No concerns.

Wildlife/recreation

(possible concerns)

Proximity to sensitive wildlife areas (DFWP identified): None identified.

Proximity to recreation sites: Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument boundaries about 4 miles southeast and 7 miles south of this location.

Creation of new access to wildlife habitat: No

Conflict with game range/refuge management: No

Threatened or endangered Species: Listed threatened or endangered species on the USFW Region 6 website are the Pallid Sturgeon and the Black footed Ferret. Candidate species is the Greater Sage Grouse.

Mitigation:

- ☐ Avoidance (topographic tolerance/exception)
☒ Other agency review (DFWP, federal agencies, DSL)
☐ Screening/fencing of pits, drillsite
☐ Other: _____

Comments: State of Montana Trust Land surface. Trust Lands will do surface
EA. No concerns.

Historical/Cultural/Paleontological

(possible concerns)

Proximity to known sites None identified _____

Mitigation

- ☐ avoidance (topographic tolerance, location exception)
☐ other agency review (SHPO, DSL, federal agencies)
☐ Other: _____

Comments: State of Montana Trust Land surface. Trust Lands will do surface
EA. No concerns.

Social/Economic

(possible concerns)

- ☐ Substantial effect on tax base
☐ Create demand for new governmental services
☐ Population increase or relocation

Comments: No concerns

Remarks or Special Concerns for this site

Well is a 2500' TD Eagle Formation test south side of Bear Paw Mountains

Summary: Evaluation of Impacts and Cumulative effects

No, long term impacts expected, some short term impacts will occur.

I conclude that the approval of the subject Notice of Intent to Drill (does/**does not**) constitute a major action of state government significantly affecting the quality of the human environment, and (does/**does not**) require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Prepared by (BOGC): /s/Steven Sasaki _____

(title:) Chief Field Inspector _____

Date: May 4, 2010 _____

Other Persons Contacted:

Montana Bureau of Mines and Geology, GWIC
website.

(Name and Agency)

Blaine County water wells

(subject discussed)

May 4, 2010

(date)

US Fish and Wildlife, Region 6 website

(Name and Agency)

ENDANGERED, THREATENED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES MONTANA
COUNTIES, Blaine County

(subject discussed)

May 4, 2010

(date)

If location was inspected before permit approval:

Inspection date: _____

Inspector: _____

Others present during inspection: _____